

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

August 16, 2006

Dear Summit participants and distinguished guests,

I would like to express my appreciation and sincere gratitude for your attendance to our 2006 Early Action Compact (EAC) Summit! Your presence exemplifies the commitment among our many partners to this state's process for bringing "Cleaner Air Sooner" for the benefit of all. I am impressed in this commitment by local county government, industry, environmental organizations, federal agencies and state agencies to bring resources and efforts together for improving air quality.

This synergistic approach has led to local efforts and initiatives that we believe will help our state to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. But, most importantly, this approach has strengthened a collaborative spirit among varied partners that I believe will facilitate our efforts in the future with other air quality issues we face. The year 2007, which is when we, as a state must demonstrate attainment for the NAAQS for ground-level ozone, is very near. I believe we will be successful.

However, we must be vigilant for other air pollutants and air quality issues on the horizon. This Summit is our opportunity to solidify the resolve of our partners towards improving air quality by coming together in a forum to share information and enthusiasm of our successes. It is also the opportunity, I believe, to reinforce the fact that our work together as partners is the real success story here. Each of our Early Action Compact partners has helped shape and influence the overall efforts for addressing the problem of ground-level ozone.

Collaboration, coordination, support and interest are words that come to my mind when I think of the EAC process in South Carolina. For those in attendance, and those partners who were not able to be here at the Summit, thank you for your efforts and advice over the past years in helping us to reach a common goal for improving our valuable resource of air quality in South Carolina. Our state is clearly a leader in this nation for demonstrating a concerted effort for achieving this goal. Thank you for your efforts, resources throughout the past years and for attending this Summit, we are very pleased you are here.

Finally, I would like to thank those sponsors, EAC partners, Convention Center staff and the Bureau of Air Quality's staff who have worked so hard to make this Summit possible. The planning, resourcefulness, securing of high quality speakers and panelists, and a fantastic meeting facility are all a result of a great committee's efforts and attention to details that will help ensure a successful Summit.

Again, thank you all for these efforts and I look forward to our future successes as well.

Sincerely,

Myra C. Reece, Chief Bureau of Air Quality